

CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

4 1. A bicycle cable guide system for maintaining tension in a straight portion of
a flexible cable extending between a cable actuated bicycle component and a cable actuator
6 selectively applying tension to the flexible cable, the cable guide system comprising:

8 a straight length of axially and radially rigid tubing having first and second ends and
10 an inner diameter greater than an outer diameter of the flexible cable receiving the straight
portion of flexible cable;

12 a first axially fixed connector operatively associated with the first end of the rigid
tubing; and

14 a second axially fixed connector operatively associated with the second end of the
rigid tubing.

18 2. The bicycle cable guide system of claim 1 wherein the first axially fixed
20 connector comprises a first length of flexible housing receiving the flexible cable and a ferrule
between the first end of the housing and the first length of flexible housing.

22 3. The bicycle cable guide system of claim 1 wherein the second axially fixed
24 connector comprises a component cable guide fixed to the component for guiding cable for
operative engagement with the component along a guide axis.

26 4. The bicycle cable guide system of claim 2 wherein the second axially fixed
28 connector comprises a component cable guide fixed to the component for guiding cable for
operative engagement with the component along a guide axis.

30 5. A bicycle cable guide system for maintaining tension in a flexible cable
extending between a cable actuated bicycle component and a cable actuator selectively
applying tension to the cable, the bicycle cable guide system comprising:

a first length of flexible housing having a select outer diameter and an inner diameter greater than the diameter of the cable;

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a straight length of axially and radially rigid tubing having an inner diameter greater than the diameter of the cable; and

a ferrule joining an end of the first length of flexible housing to a first end of the axially and radially rigid tubing.

6. The bicycle cable guide system of claim 5 further comprising:

a second length of flexible housing having substantially the same inner and outer diameter as the first length; and

a second ferrule joining an end of the second length of flexible housing to a second end of the axially and radially rigid tubing.

7. The bicycle cable system of claim 5 wherein the cable actuated bicycle component includes a component cable guide fixed to the component for guiding cable for operative engagement with the component along a guide axis, a second end of the length of axially and radially rigid tubing axially engaging the component cable guide along the guide axis, the component guide securing the second end against axial movement toward component along the guide axis.

8. The cable guide system of claim 5 wherein the cable actuated bicycle component is a cable actuated disc brake caliper.

9. The bicycle cable guide system of claim 6 wherein the second length of flexible housing has an axial length that does not radially buckle under application of tension to the flexible cable under a normal range of operating tensions applied to the cable to actuate the cable actuated component.

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10. The bicycle cable guide system of claim 5 wherein the axially and radially rigid tubing has an outer diameter substantially the same as the outer diameter of the axially rigid and radially flexible housing.

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11. A method of routing a flexible cable between a cable actuator bicycle component and a cable actuator selectively applying tension to the cable, wherein at least a portion of flexible cable route is a straight line of a select length, the method comprising:

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- a) providing a straight length of axially and radially rigid tubing having a length between ends substantially equal to the select length of the straight line portion of the flexible cable route;
 - b) feeding the portion of the flexible cable corresponding to the straight line portion of the flexible cable route through the axially and radially rigid tubing; and
 - c) fixing the ends of the axially and radially rigid length of tubing against axial movement.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein step c) comprises abutting at least one end of the tubing to an end of a length of flexible housing receiving the cable which is fixed against axial movement.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein step c) further comprises abutting both ends of the tubing to an end of a length of flexible housing receiving the cable which is fixed against axial movement.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein step c) comprises abutting one end of the tubing to an end of a length of flexible housing receiving the cable which is fixed against axial movement, and abutting one end to a cable component cable guide receiving the cable which is fixed against axial movement.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the cable actuated bicycle component is a cable actuated disc brake caliper.